



GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

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News & Articles

Report Calls for Improved Standards for Building Design and Construction, Public Shelters and Emergency Communications

U.S. Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) recently concluded that nationally accepted standards for building design and construction, public shelters and emergency communications could significantly reduce deaths and property damage caused by tornadoes. Their recommendations are the result of a two-year technical investigation into the impacts of the May 22, 2011, tornado that struck Joplin, Mo. [MORE>>](#)

In Mass Attacks, New Advice Lets Medics Rush In

Seven minutes after the authorities in Sparks, NV received a call one day in October that a gunman was on the loose at a local middle school, a paramedic wearing a bulletproof vest and a helmet arrived at the scene. Instead of following long-established protocols that call for medical personnel to take cover in ambulances until a threat is over, the paramedic took a far riskier approach: He ran inside to join law enforcement officers scouring the school for the gunman and his victims. [MORE>>](#)

Emergency Sing Off: Preparedness Song Makes the Message Stick

From gearing up for the zombie apocalypse to a flash mob encouraging readiness, promoting public preparedness has taken numerous creative forms. And now emergency managers in Virginia are getting vocal by turning popular songs into catchy messages about what to include in an emergency kit and other useful information. [MORE>>](#)

Five Myths About Helping the Philippines

Jessica Alexander, author of *Chasing Chaos: My Decade In and Out of Humanitarian Aid*, an Adjunct Professor at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, New York University's Wagner School of Public Service, and the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs at Fordham University, writes about the myths of humanitarian aid. She details why it's not helpful for the public to give their aid without first understanding what is needed. The full article is available online. [MORE>>](#)

Research

Influenza A(H7N9) Virus Gains Neuraminidase Inhibitor Resistance Without Loss of In Vivo Virulence or Transmissibility

Researchers in Nature Communications test whether or not influenza A H7N9 will keep its same virulence if it becomes resistant to neuraminidase inhibitors such as Oseltamivir. The researchers mention that when seasonal influenza A H3N2 acquired neuraminidase inhibitor resistance, its virulence decreased. They utilized two types of animals to test antiviral resistance and transmissibility. Three antivirals were tested against the

Tracking System Prepares N.Y. to Evacuate Patients in Emergencies

Just more than one year after Hurricane Sandy's waters flooded the northeast, cutting power and forcing more than 7,000 patients and residents at hospitals and nursing homes to evacuate, New York State demonstrated that it can now track those vulnerable citizens during the next big storm. [MORE>>](#)

Mobile App Tracks Emergency Volunteers

Community emergency response teams (CERT) have a new mobile app at their disposal to help track the locations of fellow volunteers and key points of interest during a deployment. [MORE>>](#)

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resistant strain of H7N9. The research showed that influenza A H7N9 did not lose virulence like H3N2. This is an important discovery as antivirals are the first line of defense against new influenza viruses before widespread immunity takes place. The full article is available online. [MORE>>](#)

The Michigan Update

Changes Coming to The Guardian in 2014

The Guardian will have a new look beginning in January 2014. In addition to a new format, *The Guardian* will be distributed once per month, every second Friday. Watch for updates from the Office of Public Health Preparedness regarding news, events, and trainings. Other divisions within the Michigan Department of Community Health will also contribute content, including, but not limited to, The Bureau of Laboratories, The Bureau of Epidemiology, The Division of Environmental Health, and The Division of Immunizations. The first issue of the New Year will be released on January 10, 2014. For questions, comments, or content suggestions please contact Rachel Ruddock at ruddockr@michigan.gov.

Tools & Resources

Hospital Experts Talk About Prepping for Disasters

Emergency preparedness was among the many topics discussed during the first annual U.S. News "Hospital of Tomorrow Forum" held in Washington, D.C., in November. In a keynote panel, health industry executives described how their hospitals coped with crises like the Boston Marathon bombing and Superstorm Sandy and shared the lessons they learned from dealing with those disasters. [MORE>>](#)

Lessons Learned from Facing the Public in Disaster

Francisco Sanchez is the liaison to the director of the Harris County, Texas, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (OHSEM). The office is responsible for disaster preparedness and response in the region. Sanchez also acts as the public information officer for OHSEM. In this edited Q&A with Emergency Management, Sanchez addresses lessons learned from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. [MORE>>](#)

Training & Events

D1RMRC WMD/CBRNE Symposium

"Dissecting the Disaster"

January 30, 2014

Michigan State University- Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center

The District 1 Regional Medical Response Coalition (D1RMRC) is pleased to announce the "12th Annual WMD/CBRNE Symposium: Dissecting the Disaster" held at the Michigan State University Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on Thursday, January 30, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Sessions will focus on multiple incidents and the affects they have on local communities. The coordination between EMS, local public health, healthcare organizations, emergency management, behavioral health, and community partners will be discussed. For more information, contact the District 1 office at 517-324-4404.

MGT 319: Bioterrorism – Mass Prophylaxis Preparedness and Planning course

February 12 & 13, 2014 or February 14 & 15, 2014

Wayne County is hosting a two-day mass prophylaxis training course and is inviting other local jurisdictions to participate. Attendees should include health department staff who have not yet participated in this training, medical reserve corps mem-

bers, other volunteers, staff from neighboring health departments, and other emergency preparedness partners. To register, please send Kevin Scheid an email at kscheid@waynecounty.com and include your name, email address, your department or affiliation, and your preferred dates for attendance.

Michigan CBRNE Conference
"Stepping Up Our Game: The Michigan CBRNE Response"
February 26, 2014

Suburban Collection Showcase – Novi, MI

Registration is now open for the 2014 CBRNE Conference. This conference will build on existing basic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives (CBRNE) knowledge, programs and concepts to provide advanced practice techniques, awareness and coordination between healthcare organizations, healthcare coalitions, emergency medical systems (EMS), local and state agencies in the event of a CBRNE incident in Michigan. Advanced level information to facilitate a better understanding of how to anticipate a large-scale disastrous traumatic incident as well as specific information that can be utilized to prepare for the worst will be featured. Register through <https://MI.TRAIN.org> course ID: 1046011.



Mailing Address:
Office of Public Health Preparedness
Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913
(517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>

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